



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0789-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Timothy B. Barnum et al.) Group Art Unit: 3653
)
Serial No.: 10/681,183) Examiner: Michael E. Butler
)
Filed: October 9, 2003)
) Confirmation No.: 7882
For: System and Method for Directly)
Connecting an Advanced Facer)
Canceler System to a Delivery Bar)
Code Sorter)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In reply to the restriction requirement mailed April 4, 2005, the period of response to which has been extended through September 4, 2005, by a petition for a four-month extension of time and fee filed herewith, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, with traverse.

In the restriction requirement, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group I, claims 11-27, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to an integrated mail processing apparatus, class 700, subclass 227, and

Group II, claims 28-37, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a method for sorting mail by destination address, class 700, subclass 224.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group II, claims 28-37.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement because Applicants submit that there would be no serious burden to search and examine all the claims together. "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits...." (See MPEP § 803). For this application, the Examiner has classified both of the claim groups in the same class, namely class 700. Although the Examiner has indicated that the two groups fall into different subclasses, Applicants believe that it would not present a serious burden for the Examiner to search a single class and two subclasses for the claimed inventions relating to a mail processing system and a method for processing mail pieces. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the restriction requirement and the timely examination of claims 11-37.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 1, 2005

By: William J. Brogan
William J. Brogan
Reg. No. 43,515